(c) The matter is under investigation by the Crime Branch of the Delhi Police.

(d) All the four officials (Farashes) suspected to be involved in the case have been suspended from service. Simultaneously, orders have also been issued to curb such happenings.

Recommendation of Expenditure Reforms Commission on Corporation of Postal Services

216. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Postal Department has strongly opposed the Expenditure Reforms Commisison's recommendation to corporatise the Department and give up its monopoly on mail services;

(b) if so, whether in view of stiff opposition from the Postal Department, Government propose to re-examine the aspect of corporatisation of postal services; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The Expenditure Reforms Commission has not recommended corporatisation of the Department. It has stated that the Indian Post Office Act 1898 needs to be totally overhauled by providing a legal basis to the privately operated couriers and withdrawing the legal protection of monopoly over letter services to the Posts. It has proposed that the premium services of Post should be corporatised and the present Postal Services Board should be strengthened and should have a statutory status with enhanced adminsitrative and financial powers. The Department has taken the view that in so far as the mail services are concerned, particularly the letter post, there is Universal Service Obligation (USO) of the Department and this cannot be parted with. Even in developed countries after a long period of corporatisation they continue to have obligations relating to letter post as part of Universal Services Obligation. It continues to be

the exclusive privilege of the postal organizations all over the world to collect, transmit, and deliver letter post under certain conditions. In so far as the corporations of the premium sevices is concerned, the Department is of the view that corporatisation necessarily does not result in making an organisation efficient and business like. The Department has proposed that the premium product services may be entrusted to a Directorate endowed with full autonomy to run on commercial principles. In fact because of several adminstrative actions and management initiative, during last three years the business on premium products revenue has grown at the rate of 44% per year on an average. The Department has accepted the proposal to strengthen the Postal Services Board with statutory status and enhanced administrative and financial powers.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Profit Earned on Long Distance Calls

†217. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's share in distribution of profits earned on long distance calls by private mobile operator has been abolished due to implementation of Limited Mobile Facility (Bill); and

(b) if so, the reasons therefore, if not, Government's share in profits at present and in the past?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) At present the private cellular Mobile Telephone Operators pass on 100% revenue collected from their subscribers on account of call charges towards fixed leg of call, including long distance calls, to Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited/Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited. However, after introduction of the use of subscriber hand-held set in WLL (Wireless in Local Loop) technology, limited in local areas, commonly known as Limited Mobility, by existing as well as

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.